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23 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 23 March 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr,
Mr. Merchant, Mr. Saccio, Mr. Washburn, Mr. Smith

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Traveling
2. Exhibits in the Soviet Bloc

Mr. Washburn outlined the possibilities that now exist for arranging exchanges of exhibits with the USSR, [and possibly with Poland and Rumania, during 1960 and 1961.]

The Board agreed that, particularly in light of the highly successful exhibit at Sokolniki in 1959, these prospects were very attractive. It was emphasized that the program presents most

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favorable opportunities for achieving the objective of making personal contact with a large number of bloc citizens; in this connection the extremely good results obtained by Russian-speaking Americans at Sokolniki were cited.

It was noted that Mutual Security Program funds will not be available to finance these exhibits, and the Board felt that solid support should be given to the USIA in finding other sources of funds.

3. Nuclear Experiment in Canada

Mr. Merchant referred to a recent speech by Mr. John Floberg, who had spoken of impending experiments designed to release oil from the Athabaska tar sands in Alberta by means of nuclear explosions. The obvious implications of this statement with respect to Canadian sensibilities was noted. This then led into a discussion of the entire Plowshare program, of which this experiment is a part, with particular reference to the difficulties which might confront a program for peaceful uses of nuclear energy at a time when there is so much emphasis on ceasing nuclear tests of any kind.

4. Countering Soviet Proposals

Mr. Harr suggested that more should be done to counter the Soviet proposals on suspension of nuclear testing, from the public opinion point of view. The consensus of the Board seemed to be that it was most difficult to move on the propaganda front before our own position is clearly determined.

5. Disarmament Conference

Mr. Gray then turned to the matter of the Geneva disarmament talks, with particular reference to the psychological effect on the world of the word "disarmament". He suggested that it might be a good idea to avoid the use of this term whenever possible, and instead to speak of "reduction and control of armaments".

In this connection, Mr. Dulles emphasized that the Soviet position in these matters is a vulnerable one from the propaganda point of view, since it is evident that the Soviets are overly concerned with secrecy and security and do not really want to open up their operations to outside view. He suggested that this vulnerability could usefully be exploited.

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The Board agreed generally that it would be a good idea to prepare a proposal for the use of the President at the summit conference that would capitalize on the opposing positions of the U.S. and the USSR on this matter. It was suggested that a possible theme in this connection could be along the lines of "open skies and an open, free society."

6. Conference on World Tensions

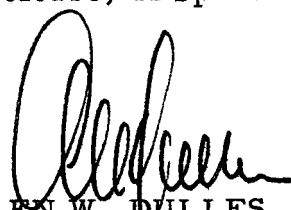
Mr. Smith spoke briefly about this conference, which will be held in Chicago in May, and noted that representatives of the Department of State and of USIA will attend.

7. Lazy S

Mr. Douglas reported that this long-range missile shot into the South Atlantic could be executed at any time after the President gives his permission to go ahead. This led into a discussion of the pros and cons of advance publicity. The consensus was that it would be best to avoid specific mention of the unusual objectives of this shot until it was evident that it had been a success.

8. Release by the Federal Aviation Agency

A proposed release by the FAA, outlining the measures taken and planned under the direction of that agency to inhibit illegal flights to Cuba, was tabled. The Board expressed no objection to the release; comments were made, however, to the effect that it appeared to lack much public appeal. It was also noted that General Quesada might broadcast the essential features of the release, in Spanish.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

30 MAR 1960

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